6th June THE EARL OF ESSEX BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Yesterday from 9 in the morning till 8 at night the Lords sat about my Lord of Essex's matter The Attorney-General, Sergeant Yelverton, the Solicitor-General and Mr Bacon, all of her Majesty's learned Counsel, laid open his offences and contempts The effect of their speeches contained his making of my Lord Southampton General of the Horse, contrary to her Majesty's pleasure , his making of knights , his going into Munster contrary to his instructions, his return, being expressly commanded by her Majesty's own letter to stay, all which points were very gravely and sharply touched and propounded against him At one point Mr Coke in his speech would have proved wilful and malicious contempts to have been disloyalty in him, saying [c] *Regma mdit> consul mdit, senatus uidit₃ hie tamen muit*' To this my Lord answered that, though he had come not to justify himself but to acknowledge his transgressions, now that his honour and loyalty was touched he should do God great wrong and his own conscience, and, taking his George and putting it with his hands towards his heart, quoth he, ' if I do not justify myself an honest man, this hand shall pull out this heart when any disloyal thought shall enter into it' * But the Lords interrupted this speech, clearing him generally of that, and proceeded to the other matters Something he said to all, but no way to justify himself, and with all submissiveness besought her Majesty's mercy

The Lords did all admire his discretion and carnage, for he was never moved at any speech that was spoken against him, but with patience heard all that was said At first my

Lord kneeled at the board's end, and had a bundle of papers in his hand, which sometimes he laid in his hat that was on the ground beside him He never offered to leave kneeling, till the Lord Archbishop desired he might stand, and then that he might lean , and lastly that he might sit

At length the Lord Keeper proceeded to deliver his opinion that his contempts deserved to be imprisoned in the Tower, to be fined as deeply as ever subject was, to have his offices of Councillor, Earl Marshal and Master of the Ordnance sequestered from him. The Lord Treasurer left out the fine, and the Lord Admiral the Tower. Mr Secretary made a wise